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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 597

By McDonald

A RESOLUTION To commend George Randolph Offitt for being named Legionnaire of the Year in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable citizens of our state who have served the nation in defense of our liberty and have gone on to dedicate themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens as members of veterans' organizations; and

WHEREAS, George Randolph Offitt is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors, especially as an active member of the John T. Davis American Legion Post 17 in Gallatin; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Offitt is a highly respected member of the Gallatin community, where he has served on the Industrial Development Board and the Committee for Gallatin's Bicentennial Celebration (1802-2002); he also works with the Sumner County Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his exemplary tenure as a teacher and school administrator, Randolph Offitt has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; he taught and served as vice principal at Gallatin High School and directed band at another local high school; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Offitt has served on the board of TRAC, an organization to serve disadvantaged or troubled young women, is a trustee of Volunteer Community College scholarship foundation, and serves on the board of the Old Union High School committee; and

WHEREAS, As a member of the American Legion since 1945, Randolph Offitt has worked diligently to recruit new members and in securing membership renewals; he has served on the Boys' State committee, the oratorical committee, participated in Little League and American Legion baseball ceremonies, and has made monthly trips to the Tennessee Veterans' Home to serve snacks and participate in Christmas programs; and

WHEREAS, Since May of 2000, Mr. Offitt has been a member of the post Color/Honor Guard and has served on more than 100 burials and other color guard ceremonies; he has performed taps at the state convention and the mid-winter conference and at legion meetings such as the POW/MIA ceremony, and at other programs incorporating the National Anthem, taps, or To the Colors; and

WHEREAS, Randolph Offitt's remarkable success as a Legionnaire, public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Offitt is a an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people who life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor in the Gallatin and Sumner County community; and

WHEREAS, His many accomplishments aside, Randolph Offitt is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, Billi, and their six children; they have shared 55 years of life's triumphs and vicissitudes together; and

WHEREAS, The John T. Alexander Post 17 in Gallatin nominated George Randolph Offitt as Legionnaire of the Year, and at the state's annual Legion convention he was selected for that prestigious award, representing the more than 33,000 Legionnaires in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, A comment from the nominating committee concerning Mr. Offitt concluded, "This Legionnaire has dedicated his life to the Legion and the community. When the Legion calls, he goes. We can't think of anyone who has done so much for our veterans, our community and our children and youth. Everything he does reflects on the Legion, because people always associate him with the Legion. But this is just a small part of what he does."; and

WHEREAS, George Randolph Offitt is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby commend George Randolph Offitt upon being selected by the American Legion as Tennessee Legionnaire of the Year for 2001 and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.